NEW-ENGLAND FARMER.

PUBLISHED BY JOSEPH BRECK & CO., (AGRICULTURAL WAREHOUSE,) NO. 52 NORTH MARKET STREET.

VOL. XXIII.] BOSTON, WEDNESDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 25, 1844. [No. 13.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

MASS. SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE.

PREMIUM FARM REPORTS.

To the Committee of the Mass Agricult. Society:

GENT.—The annexed answers to inquiries made of those offering farms for premiums, are respectfully submitted, with this single remark—if they are not sufficiently concise, I shall be happy to answer any communication on the subject promptly.

Respectfully, your ob't serv't,

BENJ. POORE.

Indian Hill Farm, near Newburyport, Ms

Ans. to question 1. Indian Hill Farm, exclusive of woodland, salt marsh, &c., contains 121 3-4 acres of land, 3 acres of which are enclosed as a garden and nursery, between 6 and 7 acres planted out with forest trees, 20 acres from which about sixty large oaks that had commenced decaying, have recently been removed, and preparations are now making to cultivate it the ensuing year; and six acres of mowing land which has not been drained, because my neighbor, whose land the drain must cross, says he prefers his meadow in *natural grass*—leaving 86 acres, which are now about equally divided in upland and meadow, the latter all reclaimed in the most permanent manner. The whole divided into fields, and numbered from 1 to 14, which is found very convenient for reference in the journal always kept on the farm, as to crop, product, &c. in past years.

Ans. 2. The high lands of the farm are a gravelly loam, resting on a clay pan, and crops are seldom injured by wet or dry weather. The soils in different portions of the meadow are very different, some of strong clay, such as would make brick; others rich, black alluvial soils. These lands were of no value till I drained them: a portion were enclosed by fence solely to prevent the cattle from being mired. I commenced draining them by merely digging ditches in different portions, about thirty years since, when quite a lad, and improved them some; but about sixteen years since, I employed a Scotch farmer, whose knowledge and experience in draining I am bound to acknowledge was of the greatest benefit to me. For further particulars see my communication on draining.

Ans. 3. We always plow deep: in some fields have let one plow follow another in the same furrow, and are well satisfied deep plowing never injured *our* lands. We think it an infallible remedy against lands washing.

Ans. 4 and 5. We have no thin soils and no experience as to their management: our poorest soils, however, we plow *deep.*

Ans. 6, 7, 8 and 9. We cultivate about 10 acres in Indian corn and potatoes, which we formerly plowed after removing the crop of hay, and sowed turnips in drills, manuring with compost; we then used our meadow lands for crops; we now renovate our meadow lands by turning down the sward after the hay is removed, and sow rye and grass seed, the latter with a liberal hand. The crop of rye is sometimes *very good*, and sometimes *very little.* Our experience has been, so far as the rye is concerned, that it should be sown early, say in August, or late, say last of October. We have an experiment this year: sowed in August, September, and October, all of which look promising. We have tried the grass seed alone, but think that it sets better when sowed with rye.

We cultivate our corn and potatoes entirely in drills: we find less manual labor will produce a crop in that way, particularly the potato crop, which we use a double-mouldboard plow in digging. These crops we now confine to our uplands, as the crop never fails on them, and they need nursing more than our meadows. We plow in autumn, as opportunity offers—the earlier the better, we think—plant our corn and potatoes in drills, using the long manure in its green state. When the crops are removed in autumn, we throw the land into ridges, by the double mouldboard plow; the following spring sow oats and barley, which we find more profitable than wheat: our land in former years produced good wheat, but not as good recently. We use little or no manure on laying down our lands after a corn and potato crop. We think it causes the straw to be too rank: we prefer adding the compost as a top-dressing, if the land should appear to need it before the regular year for re-plowing. I would here remark that we cultivate our fields in rotation, as near as possible: sometimes by failure of seed or something of the kind, we are thrown out of our regular course, but we aim to be particular in this respect. With regard to quantity of manure used—the long or green manure is taken out as made in winter in loads, of all sizes, from a small sled-load to a horse-wagon. It would be only *guessing* to attempt a computation. As we manure only in drills, and as we have large quantities of straw, that our long manure is not *rich*, we use it liberally. Our compost this year, (for particulars of which see answer to question 20,) calculating 30 cubic feet to the load, amounts to 363 loads: we have now 109 loads on hand, by the same calculation.

Ans. to question 10. We mow about 86 acres, some of which we commence on early, as we keep our horses up all the year, and our oxen at least three-quarters of the year; and therefore use a portion of our grass for soiling. Estimating our hay on the 1st of August at 500 cubic feet to the ton, which is the way I often sell to the dealers, we had then in barn, exclusive of that used for soiling, 157 tons.

Ans. to 11 *and* 12. We flowed twenty acres of our meadow, then in timothy grass, last winter. We are of opinion that it has injured us by causing rushes. We shall try it hereafter, by retaining the fall and spring rains for only two or three days at a time. We think the meadows containing natural grasses, would be more benefited.

Ans. to 13. We mow six acres suitable for the plow if drained, (alluded to in ans. 1.) It produces a mixture of blue-grass, flag, &c.; about one ton per acre.

Ans. to 14. Our method of reclaiming our meadows, was, first, bringing up the level with a capacious open ditch; then constructing covered drains, which were near as possible to where the upland terminated and the lowlands began—very crooked, but must be level and without much fall; then leaders (also covered) to the main drain: the meadow then laid in beds two swarths of the mower broad.

Ans. to 15. We had four acres corn. Land plowed in fall of '42; re-plowed in spring of '43; corn planted in drills; eight-rowed corn; produce 72 bushels per acre. We have not heretofore been successful in preparations of seed corn, though we have tried many: we have sometimes applied ashes at first hoeing, with good success.

Ans. to 16. We plant six acres potatoes. We plant them in drills, using cultivators and plows in the culture, and run a double-mouldboard plow through the drills when we harvest them. We have many years shipped our potatoes to Louisiana, and for that market cultivate the French Red variety: they differ little in taste from the Long Red, but are shaped more like the Kidney potato. We cut them some time, before planting them, using the best eyes only. The quantity produced is not probably as great, but they are by that process nearly of one size. For our home consumption, we plant Chenango, Pink-eye, Kidney, Lady-fingers, &c. We do not think all the varieties taken together, our crop averages more than four hundred bushels to the acre.

Ans. to 17. We have three acres enclosed, in which we raise all sorts of fruit and forest trees and vegetables, which we dispose of in this neighborhood and the southern markets. We cultivate this ground by plowing and digging in the usual way. We have this department separate from the farm, but exchange work at certain seasons.

Ans. to 18. About 10 acres, mostly in barley and oats: sometimes, on portions of our land, spring rye. The previous year cultivated with corn and potatoes; after the crop is removed, thrown into ridges; then in spring the ridges split and harrowed down, plowed, harrowed and sowed, twice harrowed and rolled. We sow the Scotch two-rowed barley and Scotch Potato oat, and probably use more seed to the acre than would be usually recommended: our land being under good cultivation, it would otherwise go too much to straw. We use rye 2 bushels—oats 3 to 3 1-2, and barley, on some of our lands, nearly 4 bushels per acre.

Ans. to 19. In laying down our meadow lands, or rather to renovate them, we plow after taking off the hay, laying the sward flat, sow rye and grass seed with liberal top-dressing and rolling. Our upland, as before stated, we plow in autumn, the following year raise corn and potatoes, throw the land into ridges, and the spring following sow down with small grains and grass seed. The grass seed we invariably raise, preferring it much to that usually to be purchased. We avoid bad weeds, and find it better. We are by some called foolish in sowing as much as we do to the acre, always using one bushel, and on some of our lands one and a half bushel to the acre; but we have never seen cause to repent.

Ans. to 20. We collect manure from the following sources, not having purchased any for many

years: 1st, we have a cistern 13 feet in diameter and 15 feet deep, constructed of stone and cement; into this runs the stale from the stable, ox house, cow house, and all the liquid from the cow yard, the suds and wash from the dwelling; over are the water closets of the dwelling, two in the basement, two on the ground floor, and two in the chamber: these are connected by covered passages to the dwelling: in the second story is a place for putting down loam or any material wished for compost, which we do weekly: back of the building and under the basement, is a convenient place to throw out the compost, which we do semi-annually. There is nothing offensive in the smell, and we think too high an estimate cannot be placed upon this appendage to the farm.

2d. We have a stationary threshing mill, erected in 1826 temporarily, and afterwards permanently, at a cost of five hundred dollars. By this we can thresh 75 bushels per hour, winnowing and cleaning at the same time. Two horses will propel it, but we generally put in more if we have them. It is an excellent place to break a colt: we can harness six to it. We advertised to thresh for the straw and chaff, and were thought *deranged*. It was brought 9 miles to the mill, and we estimated our straw and chaff one year, obtained in this way, at 90 tons. The eyes of people are now open, and as we will not thresh for money, we only obtain 15 to 20 tons per annum now. We, however, think it a good investment, had we only our own grain to thresh, as we can dispatch it at once and have the time thus saved for other work, at an important season of the year.

We make all the compost we can, and from the usual means of parings, leaves, meadow mud, &c.

Ans. to 21. We have 6 oxen, 10 cows, 4 to 6 horses, (2 of which only are put to farm work, except in the threshing mill.) We raise all our calves, which we have shipped south and west, when six months old, except those selected to make our stock good.

Our main barn is 120 feet long and 42 in width. In the basement or cellar (though mostly above ground) are horse stables, ox house, threshing mill, cider press, hay press, and vegetable cellars, which are filled by rising hatches in the floor above: there are also two wings 80 feet each, one of which is a cow house and wood house in the basement or cellar, the other a piggery, and over it a carriage house, work shop, henery, &c. The barn is devoted to hay and straw, and all the cattle fed by putting hay down in racks: the cattle are tied by chains: the floor of the cow house, ox house and stables is of paved stone, and gutters cut from stone leading to the cistern: the entire barn, stables, cistern, &c., if rough in appearance, are permanent and strong, and were erected at an expense of $2000. I omitted to say the basement is constructed entirely of stone: split stone is used for door-posts, supports in cellar, &c., and the roofs are covered with tin, which covering costs in the first instance one-third more than good shingles, and has been eleven years on, and shows no signs of rust or decay. A slight coat of Venetian Red boiled in oil is recommended once in five years, to roofs within 20 miles of the ocean. Our cow-yard is filled with mud, earth, parings, leaves, &c. in the fall, which are put in heaps in spring, when it is again filled; the droppings of the cows and manure from stables in summer, is daily put in with the hogs under cover, and removed to the compost heap every convenient opportunity, when properly worked.

In saying I have purchased no manure, I did not include the lime we use in compost, say 20 barrels per annum.

Ans. to 22. Our cattle are Durham Short Horns, which, for *our* farm, we think have no equal—particularly as we have, and continue to have, such liberal compensation for those we dispose of.

Ans. to 23. We put calves to drink soon as dropped, when dropped at proper season. Sometimes, however, we have a very fine one out of season, which we suffer to run with the cow: we consider this an expensive way of rearing calves, but the prices we have often obtained, fully justify it.

Ans. to 24. We make no cheese of late years, but dispose of our milk, except what we use for family butter at the house.

Ans. to 25. Sheep we purchase from time to time, in small numbers, from 10 to 20, for the purpose of fattening.

Ans. to 26, 27, 28. We formerly had large herds of swine: we now number from 6 to 15, at different seasons, which are mainly supported by wash from the house and unsaleable vegetables. We throw them all our horse manure, and in summer the manure of the cattle, with turf parings, sods, young weeds, &c., which we often remove to the compost heap, giving them in return a fresh supply of materials.

Ans. to 29. We have three departments: the farmer and three assistants and two boys; the gardener and one assistant, and the machinists' department, which is composed of one blacksmith, one stone mason and wall builder, one wheelwright and carpenter. They all keep separate accounts, and when one exchanges time, it is repayed the same as if with a neighbor. We build our own implements, except plows, shoe our horses and oxen, &c., and work for our neighbors. Since 1826, I have had no foreman as farmer, but Scotch, and no assistants except Scotch, English, and Irish, one Dutch and one Welch. Americans generally cut our grass by the acre: foreigners cannot do as much work in one day as Americans, but they will do more in one month, and infinitely more in a year. They are satisfied with a vegetable diet, and are boarded cheaper, or if they have families, live for less, and can afford to work for less: they are not afraid of wet or cold, and having been raised to labor, are content to labor.

My foreman being a foreigner, understands their customs at home, and can manage them better. They also prefer him, as they can work as they have been accustomed. Having made a rule, that when they were deserving, to provide better situations for them after they had become accustomed to the climate and manner of farming here, I can from the neighborhoods of those who have faithfully served me, at any time supply myself, at sixty days' notice, with any quantity of farmers or mechanics, at the old country wages, which do not exceed an average of £12 per annum for farm servants, or £20 per annum for mechanics. In addition, board, washing and lodging, if single; and use of cottage and garden, and one quart of milk per day and board themselves, if married. I wish no better men than I obtain at these prices.

Ans. to 30. We have 347 apple trees, and formerly made 75 barrels cider: we have recently headed down most of our cider apple trees and grafted them. We had 142 barrels winter apples, in 1842, and less than 30 the present year.

Ans. to 31. We have 1200 and upwards of trees, consisting of pear, peach, plum, apricot, cherry, &c., planted out at different times during the last ten years, and have many thousand of all intermediate sizes, to supply the farm and for sale.

Ans. to 32. We are not troubled with canker-worms or borers to much extent.

Ans. to 33. We have used no ardent spirits in cultivating the farm the last eight years, and very little the preceding twelve years.

October, 1843.

THE DROUGHT.

We are in the midst of an unparalleled drought. The earth, in city and country, is "as dry as a powder house." Vegetation of all kinds look as though it had been kissed by fire. We have had but two or three showers during the last four or five weeks, and they were light. The bed of the Genesee is nearly bare, and most of our mills are idle, for the want of water. Many of the wells in the city are dry, and all of them are unusually low. Our principal public houses are not only obliged to go over a mile for every drop of water they use for cooking and drinking, but have to pay for it by the barrel! The adage, "As free as water," now possesses quite a different signification from that hitherto attached to it.

Many of our farmers have already sown their wheat, but the seed will be a long time in germinating, unless we are favored with rain. The warm weather has hastened the ripening of corn, which is now entirely out of danger from the frost. —*Rochester Dem.*

We learn that so great has been the drought in the interior, that some of the Transportation Lines to Pittsburg have stopped running their boats until the canals are replenished with water. The Schuylkill at Fairmount is lower than it has previously been since the dam was constructed.—*Philad. North Amer.*

The protracted drought under which the country is suffering, has so dried the streams that the mills at Patterson have not, for the last few weeks, run at more than half speed, and one or two had to stop entirely for want of water. The Patterson Intelligencer states that the quantity of water in the Passaic is less at present than it has been since 1819. Not a drop has passed over the Falls for some time. Little or no business is done on the Morris canal, for want of water.—*Newark Daily Advertiser.*

☞The drought in many sections of Massachusets has been very severe, causing pastures and crops to suffer severely. On Sunday, however, there was a copious shower in the vicinity of this city, which gave considerable relief to the drooping vegetation. We hear that in the Connecticut valley, the drought has visited but few places.

A late number of the Quarterly Review estimates the average produce of wheat in England, to be 26 bushels, and says if this could be raised to 27, it would add to the nation's income about £1,200,000. The average in the U. States is probably not over 10 bushels: if we could bring this up to 11, we should thus add to the farmers' income some six or eight millions of dollars. Could it be doubled, as no doubt it one day will be, sixty or eighty millions of dollars would be added to the annual receipts of our farmers! I have thrown out these few remarks to stir up to inquiry every one who handles the plow.—*Far. Cabinet.*

WHAT CAN FARMERS DO ?

A great many things that they do not do now. They can raise greater crops, and make more money. They can improve their stock and save money, and they can be every way more independent and work no harder. But will they? I think so. One great thing in the way of many a farmer's improvement is that he never begins. Talk to him about improving him farm and he tells you it's all very well, but he is too poor to undertake it. And one great defect in Agricultural publications is the fact that they do not often point out the way whereby a poor man or a farmer in slender circumstances can be benefitted. We read of what is done and doing in England, but there is but little of English agriculture that could be adopted with profit or advantage in this country. We now and then get glimpses of German and French farming, still there is but a small portion that can be of use to us in a new country where produce is low and labor high. Whatever is done abroad that is of any service to us we can do here, and that being so little it is easily known.

As a general rule, the land in this country does not produce one half as much of any crop *except weeds*, as it is capable of doing, and it will require not a third more labor to get double the amount. The great secret of large crops both at home and abroad, lies in the judicious application of manure. And the saving and applying manure is about the only thing that we can imitate to advantage, in foreign agriculture. There are but few farmers who cannot double, in one way or another, the manure now applied to their land—and that is the way for them to increase their crops. On wheat farms for instance, always plow in a good quantity of clover. I have but little doubt that wheat land may be made to yield a good crop and be cultivated for fifty years to that crop alone, and constantly improve. I know this is against theory, but I also know that it is not contrary to practice. Sow clover every spring upon the wheat, and apply plaster, then sow upon the young wheat plant, in the fall or spring, from five to ten bushels of air slacked lime. This is contrary to all theory and practice, but then it is not contrary to common sense. I know that we are told to put on a farm 50 to 500 bushels, but still that does not prove but what a less quantity would answer. Lime is applied either as a kind of manure which is to benefit directly the growing crop, or else it is applied upon a stiff clay soil to ameliorate its texture, and make it more mellow. In the latter case a large quantity may be usefully applied. But as we have few farmers whose land needs such a quantity, I shall confine myself to the smaller number of bushels, and an annual application. Lime is an important constituent of wheat, and it should therefore be abundant in the soil to mature a good crop. The utmost that could be taken up by a growing crop would exceed probably one hundred pounds to the acre, or less than two bushels. The balance would remain in the soil in some shape. The tendency of all mineral manures is to sink in the soil. A large application, will in time, be washed down so as to be beyond the reach of the growing plant. Now then would it not be better to make a small application and make it oftener. Or to use the words of a friend with whom I was conversing the other day, "I shall apply lime to my land as I apply grease to my boots, *little and often*. But it may be said that so small a quantity can do no good. We see in the case of gypsum, that so small a quantity as one bushel to the acre has doubled the product of the crop. Why shall not lime, if the land or crop need it, have equally as good an effect if applied in as small a quantity as I have recommended.

The practice in France of liming once in about ten years, and applying but some 20 bushels to the acre, is decidedly more worthy of our adoption than that of the English.

I have no great faith in many of those new notions about manure, nor of those patent, and other wonderful manures. I believe generally there is a good deal more *humbug* than *humus* in them. If the farmer will endeavor to put back upon his land as much and a little more than he takes off, his farm will constantly improve. If otherwise he will exhaust the fertility of the soil. Less will produce less, till he sells out and goes to a new country.

For a wealthy farmer it is easy to apply his 50 bushels of charcoal, his 100 bushels of lime, and his salt, and plaster, and all that to the acre, and get large crops, when the application is properly made. But for the small farmer who has no surplus capital, it is all moonshine to suppose that he can go into these improvements. Still the small farmer can make a great deal more manure than he does, without any extra expense if he will only husband his resources, and he will do so as soon as he finds it for his interest.

Make all the manure you can, and if possible apply it to a spring crop. Put your ashes on your corn, potatoes, and grass land, and not into the ash pedlar's cart.

Closely connected with the subject of manure is the management of our stock. There is no excuse in this country, for a man that has a farm, to be without good warm shelter for his stock,—and no man can thrive who allows his stock to stand shivering through the cold days, and colder nights of our bleak winters, with no other protection than the broad canopy of heaven. It is a species of cruelty and inhumanity that gets its deserts here,—and I hope is not forgotten hereafter. There is no man, I do'nt care who he is, that has stock, but can provide them a comfortable shelter.

Perhaps another day I will tell you how I think a small farm could be managed to advantage.—*New Genesee Far.*

THE POTATO CROP.

Since our state election and its exciting scenes have passed, no topic has so engrossed the attention and conversation of every circle in our midst, as the almost entire failure of our potato crop, and the curious disease that is its cause. During all the early part of the season, the promise of a large yield was very flattering. But within a month, the vines in most of the fields have died, and on examination, were found to have a slimy, rotten appearance. On digging the potatoes, quite a proportion of them are found to be rotten, and in some places they are found so putrid, and send forth such an obnoxious effluvia, that they cannot be dug at all.

Some persons have dug their potatoes and put them in their cellars, in hopes to stop the spread of the evil, and in a few days the whole bin has become one rotten, putrid mass. We hear of other farmers losing their hogs by feeding them with potatoes partly affected. This epidemic is by no means local and confined in its operations. We hear of its ravages in every quarter, and many of our exchange papers from other States have notices of its effects. In some places it seems to have destroyed the entire crop, in others it has been more partial.

Many causes are assigned for the disease, but none of them seem satisfactory, and like epidemics among cattle and men, we must be content to witness its ravages without knowing its cause, or discovering its remedy. The same disease prevailed extensively last year in southern New York, part of Pennsylvania, Connecticut and New Jersey. A full description of the disease and its extent, may be found in the invaluable report of Mr Ellsworth, of the Patent Department, made to Congress in January last. We give some extracts below:

"One who is esteemed high authority on this subject, says: 'Through nearly the entire extent of the State of New York, (and it is said also in portions of Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania,) the potato crop is rendered almost valueless by a disease new to farmers here, which, in most cases, attacked the potatoes before they were dug. Many crops were worthless when dug from the ground, and almost all crops began to decay immediately after drying, and rapidly decayed till they were an exceedingly offensive, putrid mass. The diseased potatoes are said to be poisonous, and to have caused the death of hogs fed upon them.

'It is said that in the vicinity of Philadelphia, where farmers have planted from 1 or 2 to 10 or 15 acres, they have lost them almost bodily; and in some instances, 1200 or 1500 bushels have decayed after they were dug.

'In one agricultural paper we find the disease ascribed to a premature ripening, which caused the first set of tubers to sprout for the second crop. Another says, the disease is generally attributed to their not ripening perfectly, and having been harvested prematurely. Others think it owing to superabundant moisture of the soil, in which the potatoes laid too long before being harvested; and others that it is caused by some peculiarity in the weather.'

"A gentleman, to whom we are indebted for much valuable information, mentions that he heard two or three years ago, from one of the foreign ministers in this country, that a similar disease had attacked the potatoes in his country; but as yet we have been unable to find any notice of the same in any European publication.

We find the following description of the appearance and progress of the disease, in an agricultural journal: 'The pink-eyes are almost universally affected. The disease first manifests itself by a black spot on the surface of the potato, which rapidly spreads, till the whole root becomes soft and worthless. Many farmers have lost their entire crops; the disease, in many cases, destroying the roots while in the ground; and in others, the potatoes, after having been carefully stowed away in the cellar, apparently free from disease, and sound, in a few weeks were thrown away, utterly lost.'"

Every person feels the destruction of this crop to be a great calamity, yet we presume few are fully aware of its importance, either to the Union or our state. We find upon an examination of the census returns of 1840, that there were raised in the Union the year previous, 108,298,000 bushels.

Our own state raises about one-thirteenth of this quantity, and there are only three states that exceed it in its potato crop.

New York,	raises	30,123,614	bushels.
Maine,	"	10,395,280	"
Pennsylvania,	"	9,535,663	"
Vermont,	"	8,869,751	"
New Hampshire,	"	6,206,606	"

Bratleboro' Phenix.

From the New Genesee Farmer.

VITALITY OF SEEDS—SPONTANEOUS VEGETATION.

Mr Bateham,—I observed it stated lately, in the papers, that on opening a sarcophagus, containing a mummy, taken from the ruin of Thebes, (a city known to have been utterly destroyed more than 3,000 years ago,) that among the envelopes inclosing the body were found several grains of wheat, which were planted by a gentleman in England, and produced the Egyptian, or many-headed wheat, of precisely the same form and quality as it now grows with us.

Loudon also states, that in the stomach of an embalmed ibis, (a bird which the Egyptians worshipped,) were found some seeds, which were planted, and produced the common red raspberry.

I know an instance where a yard had been used for wood, in the rear of a house, for sixty years, and the accumulated barks, chips, and saw-dust had never been removed during that period. On cleaning it off, it was supposed to be a good rich spot for planting onions, and clear from weeds; but, to the disappointment of the owner, all manner of foul things, of all "nations, kingdoms, and tongues," came up so quick and luxuriantly, that he never saw an onion, nor, in fact, could ever find any.

A recent case in my experience confirms the belief, that many seeds, when lying in the earth constantly wet, or beyond the reach of light and heat, are almost as imperishable as the diamond, or the precious metals.

It is said, that the marl from the Orange Co. beds, at a depth of 15 or 20 feet, when freshly taken and inclosed under glass covers, and properly moistened, and exposed to light and heat, will produce several vegetable varieties, and especially white clover. Marl is undoubtedly a deposit from lakes or ponds, which, from some cause, have disappeared, but at a period so remote, that calculation is at fault in assigning it a place in our chronology. If such is the fact, to what an indefinite period can the life of seeds be prolonged! What a commentary on the short space of animal, in comparison with vegetable life, when we look upon one of the monarchs of the forest, whose concentric rings count 500 or 600 years, and was a respectable fishing-rod for the Titans before the invention of gunpowder or the mariner's compass, and, in proud manhood, braving with its giant head the storms of winter, before the discovery of America! Kingdoms and nations have come and gone; conquerors and heroes have ruled and ruined, passed away, and are forgotten; while the old oak has flourished, and grown stronger and more mighty every day.

But, Mr. Editor, I have run off the track. What was I going to say: Oh, my experience of the tenacity of life in seeds.

When I took possession of the farm on which I now reside, on the north side of the Ridge-road, there was a field of rather low ground, which had eight or ten years previously been cut over and partially cleared of logs, and allowed to run into such grasses as chance produced, together with a great quantity of small brake (fern,) maretail *(equisetum,)* and other wild affairs, that constituted the toughest sward that can be conceived of. A ditch was run through it, and ploughed in the fall with a strong team. In the spring, after it became dry enough, I attempted to cross plough it for oats; but my hired man said it was utterly impossible, as the sward had not rotted at all, and it was so tough that it would drag before the plough in long strips: in short, the only way we could subdue it was, to *devil* it over, as the saying is, and with axes cut it up, and burn it. This turf was from four to six inches thick, and under it a quicksand subsoil, with some stone. I have been thus particular to make it apparent, that this black soil that now composed this sward, was the result of accumulation and deposit of decayed vegetables, from all time previous, since "water ran and grass grew." Well, sir, in the course of my pleasant occupation of *chopping and cording* green-sward, I observed a line of new vegetation on the line of the furrows, as they lay lapped one upon another, in a straight line about four inches from what was the original surface, in various places for many rods. On examining it closely, I was convinced it was white clover.

I have often heard farmers say that such and such land was natural to white clover—that if you should clear a spot in the wilderness, it would immediately come in—that to sow plaster would insure white clover where there was none before; but not being a believer in spontaneous vegetation or animalization, I said to myself, "Here is a case in point: if seeds are required for the production of plants, this sward must contain them, and they can be discovered by close examination." So, sir, I *toted* a piece home, cut it in slices—when, lo and behold! the fine yellow seeds, like grains of gold, were thickly scattered in a thin layer through the whole mass, and on exposure to light and heat, grew and produced white clover, and that only.

Now, what state of things could have existed, to deposit those seeds in that position? The whole country in this region has been redeemed from the wilderness, within 15 or 20 years, and the spot I allude to within 12 of the time I am speaking of; and there is no stream of water that could possibly have brought them from any other place. White clover is undoubtedly indigenous, but does not grow in forests, or uncultivated places. Was there a period, before trees and shrubs grew, that the herbs of the field had undisputed sway over this country? and that subsequent changes, by the subsidence of inland seas, or the Noahic deluge, have disturbed the drift, and deposited the alluvial soils mixed with the seeds of a former surface, at various depths, convenient for a proper exposure to cause them to multiply and replenish the earth? I know of no other way to account for seeds at the various depths and situations in which they are found.

The commonly received opinion, that "White clover is natural to some land," as are various other plants and weeds without number—if intended to convey the idea that they are produced without seeds, is certainly a vulgar error. I cannot consent to entertain the idea one instant, that *something comes from nothing*; I want a *quid pro quo* in nature as well as in trade. There is a first cause for everything: it is one of the unchangeable laws of the creation. If spontaneous vegetation was to be admitted, we might expect new and unknown varieties springing up every day: when it is well known, in all regions, that nothing new under the sun appears for centuries. The supposition would conflict with the foundation of all belief; for it is said, that "in the beginning the grass and herb, and fruit-tree, yielding seed after its own kind, whose seed was in itself," were created.

Yours, L.

☞Have tools that you have done with, housed.

Fruit Trees for Ornament.—If a man has but little land, it is well to ornament his grounds with fruit trees. They are not only good for ornament, but valuable in affording delicious fruit. If well arranged, and kept in a neat thriving condition, they will be nearly as ornamental as any trees that are cultivated. If the apple tree produced no fruit, and it was a foreign species, it would be brought to this country and cultivated for its beautiful flowers. What trees cultivated expressly for ornament, particularly for their fine flowers, make a more noble show than the apple, peach, and some other kinds, when gaily decked in blossoms sweet, filling the air with their fragrance. If a farmer has an abundance of land, then it is of little importance whether he cultivates fruit or forest trees around his house, as the latter may as well grow there as elsewhere, and they will in due time furnish fuel. We will give an instance of the advantage of giving preference to a fruit tree. Mr. Bowen Russel, of West Cambridge, was advised to set a forest tree for a shade near the kitchen door, but he set a Baldwin apple tree, and in eleven years from that time he took at one crop five barrels of apples. Supposing a family had no fruit trees, what an advantage one such tree would be. How often would it afford a fine feast of fruit, and how many excellent dishes of food.—*Boston Cult.*

REGULATIONS

For the Show of the Rhode Island Agricul. Society.

The annual Cattle Show and Exhibition of Domestic Manufactures, by this spirited and useful Society, will take place at Pawtuxet, on *Thursday, September* 26. The following regulations have been adopted:

The meeting of the Society for the election of officers, and the transaction of other business, will be held in the Society's Hall, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

The several Committees will meet at 10 o'clock, A. M., and proceed immediately to adjudge the premiums.

The Standing Committee will meet at 1 o'clock, P. M., to receive the reports of the different commitees.

Premiums will be declared at 1 1-2 o'clock, P. M., and be paid in Providence the following day, in the order they stand on the show bill, at the office of the Treasurer.

All articles of Shop and Mill Manufacture, Butter, Cheese, Agricultural crops, &c., to be exhibited, must be entered and delivered at the Society's Hall, by 7 o'clock, on Tuesday evening.

All stock must be entered by 7 o'clock, on Tuesday evening, and placed in the pens by 8 o'clock on Wednesday morning, and can be removed by 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Those who withdraw their stock before that time, will forfeit their premiums.

Assistant Secretaries will attend at the Hall from 9 o'clock, A. M. until 9 o'clock, P. M. on Tuesday, the 25th inst.

Dinner for the members, will be ready at 2 o'clock, P. M., in Mechanics' Hall. Tickets (being free) may be had from the Secretary before 1 o'clock, P. M.

C. S. RHODES, *Sec'ry.*

From our exchange papers we perceive that the establishment of an Agricultural College in England is considered certain. The Society has resolved itself into a tangible shape, and will immediately commence operations.—*Alb. Cult.*

NEW SYSTEM OF MANURING.

A singular idea has just been suggested in Scotland, in relation to the nutrition of plants. It may be summed up in a few words, thus—that a sufficient quantity of the elements of nutrition may be absorbed into the seed of wheat, oats, barley, &c. to ensure a very large produce at harvest, without any other manure. The gentleman that suggested the idea made experiments at two successive seasons, (in 1842 and 1843,) with complete success, and the Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland, have published in their Transactions, a detailed account of the whole affair. The experiments were tried on oats and barley, and the produce, especially the oats, were exhibited at the Society's exhibition last fall, and were of remarkable quality. In their Transactions, the Society speak of them in these words:—"There was perhaps no object in the exhibition of plants in the Society's Show at Dundee, in August 1843, which attracted such general attention as the remarkably strong and vigorous oats, growing in soil, exhibited by Mr. James Campbell of the Educational Seminaries of that town. The soil in which they grew, possessed no peculiar property, except that it had not been manured for eleven years. The vigor of the plants, according to Mr. Campbell, was entirely to be ascribed to their seed having been subjected to the process of soaking in certain chemical solutions." Mr. Campbell, himself, describes the result of the experiment thus:—"The greater number of the stems of the oats are as thick as small canes, and the leaves from one inch to one inch and one-seventh in breadth, of a vigorous dark green color. The seed was very light, not exceeding 37 lbs. per bushel, and consisting of grains set aside for feeding poultry. The average number of stems from thirty-three seeds, is eleven or twelve to each seed sown, and the gross apparent produce between five and six hundred fold." The solution in which these oats were soaked, was that of sulphate of ammonia. He prepared it from the carbonate of ammonia himself. He also used solutions of nitrate and muriate of ammonia, and nitrate of soda and potash, and all these in combination; but he seems to think the sulphate the best, though all the others produced favorable results. As these experiments cost but little, and can very easily be tried, I would recommend all farmers to make them with at least one acre. The simplest method is to take one pound of carbonate of ammonia and dissolve it in five pints of pure rain or river water. Then take one pound of finely ground gypsum (or plaster of Paris,) and stir it into the solution of ammonia, and let it stand twenty-four hours, stirring it occasionally. When the lime of the plaster of Paris has completely settled at the bottom of the vessel, pour off the clear liquor into another vessel, and add four pints of water to the lime, stir it well, let it settle, and then pour off the clear liquor into the other vessel as before; then put three pints more of water to the lime and stir it well again; let it settle and pour off as before into the other vessel. The object of these successive washings is to secure all the sulphate of ammonia that may be in the lime. The result will be, that there will in the twelve pints of solution just one pound of sulphate of ammonia, which is the strength of the solution directed by Mr. Campbell. And these twelve pints, or one gallon and a half is the quantity required for one bushel of seed. The cost of the carbonate of ammonia is about 30 cents a pound at retail; the plaster cost comparatively nothing therefore, if Mr. Campbell's theory be correct, it will cost but 30 to 60 cents to manure an acre of ground for a very large yield of wheat, oats, &c. The length of time Mr. Campbell left the oats, barley, &c. in soak, varied from fifty to ninety-four hours, at a temperature of 60 deg. Fahrenheit. Barley did best when steeped 60 hours. Rye grass, and other gramineous seeds, do with soaking fifteen to twenty hours, and clover from eight to ten hours. He does not mention the time required for the steeping of wheat. Of course a much shorter time will be required than that for barley or oats; probably ten to fifteen hours would be sufficient.

Having stated Mr. Campbell's theory and given his practice with the results, I must be permitted a little criticism. It appears to me that the theory itself is a kind of condensation of the old and very deservedly exploded practice of manuring in the hill, without some of its most important advantages. Suppose a small quantity of this same sulphate of ammonia were placed in the hill with the seed, the moisture of the earth and the rain would gradually dissolve it, and the seeds would readily absorb it to the full extent of their capacity, and the growing plant would take up as much of what was not absorbed by the seed, as its future growth required. But it is obvious that this would only be of much advantage during the very young state of the plant. Its roots extend every way, far beyond the small place where the salts are: What for? Are we to be informed that the roots are thus sent out in search of inorganic matter, air and water only? Again, does sulphate of ammonia comprise all the elements of nutrition that compose the food of wheat, barley, oats, &c.? Let us see. Straw contains 38 per cent of carbon; that is, one hundred pounds of straw contain 38 pounds of carbon; and one hundred pounds of wheat contain 43 pounds of carbon. Sulphate of ammonia can only furnish the necessary (but absolutely essential,) nitrogen, nothing more. If, therefore, as Mr. Campbell asserts, oats soaked in a solution of sulphate of ammonia, and planted in a tilly subsoil taken six feet from under the surface, and in which there is no humus or organic matter of any kind, produced from five to eight stems of prolific oats, then we must conclude that a sufficient quantity of carbon and organic matter to supply the plants with its other elements must have been supplied through the medium of rain water, atmospheric air, &c. It may be safely admitted that the plants do obtain from these sources, an abundant supply of carbon; but that they do not thence obtain their potash, phosphorus, magnesia, silica, &c. is well known. Again, supposing there is no magnesia in the soil, whence will the wheat plant obtain phosphate of magnesia, which is an essential portion of all the gramineæ? Whence, also, will it obtain the silicate of potash, if there be neither potash nor silicic acid in the soil? Will sulphate of ammonia alone, in a soil taken six feet below the surface, and in which there is no humus or organic matter of any kind, furnish all these or any of these essential elements of vegetable organism? As hinted above, ammonia furnishes to plants nothing but nitrogen; nitrogen does not enter into the composition of any one of the above named elements, plants receive much, if not most of their carbon from the atmosphere; and why may they not also receive their nitrogen from the same source, as atmospheric air is composed of oxygen and nitrogen, the latter being four-fifths of its bulk. We all know that they do take carbon from the atmospheric air, throwing off the oxygen, and it is no more than reasonable to conclude that they appropriate the nitrogen to their own use.* If this hypothesis be admitted, the application of ammonia to soils is superfluous. But again, and I will have done with this criticism. Can it for one moment be supposed that a grain of wheat can take up by absorption, a sufficient quantity of ammonia to supply the whole plant, seeds and all, with all the nitrogen required for its perfection? It must be borne in mind, while considering this question, that twelve-thirteenths of the bulk of the solution absorbed by the grain, is simple water, and therefore that but one-thirteenth of the same bulk is sulphate of ammonia, that but one-third of this ammonia, the other two-thirds being water and sulphuric acid, that about five-sixths of the weight of ammonia is nitrogen, the other sixth being hydrogen. Hence, wheat steeped as directed by Mr Campbell, and absorbing the whole of the solution, will contain only one two-hundred-and-thirteenth of its own weight of nitrogen, a portion so inconceivably small, as to entitle the theory of Mr. Campbell to the appellation of the Homeopathic practice of agriculture. It is pretty well known to chemists, that grass, hay, &c. contain one per cent of nitrogen, that is, that one hundred pounds of hay contain one pound of nitrogen. I have not been able to find any close analysis of wheat, but it must of necessity contain a much larger proportion of nitrogen than grass does, on account of its possessing a greater abundance of gluten, an essential element of which is nitrogen. Therefore the addition of half apound of nitrogen, (which is the greatest quantity Mr. Campbell's theory requires,) to an acre of wheat, could only result in adding fifty pounds of wheat in the straw to the harvest that would have been yielded without it; that is, that this plan of manuring can only result in increasing the crop, straw and all, of an acre of ground, fifty pounds. Still, as I stated before, it is worth trying, because the cost of the experiment is a mere trifle, and there may be things in agriculture as well as elsewhere, not dreamed of in our philosophy. In the chemical proportions above referred to, I have only attempted an approach to the various quantities, but I believe a sufficiently close approximation to exactness has been attained for all practical purposes, especially for that in view.

GIDEON B. SMITH.

—*Albany Cultivator.*

*I am fully aware that chemists deny that plants derive any benefit from the nitrogen of the air, because, say they, "nitrogen cannot be made to enter into combination with any element except oxygen, even by the most powerful chemical means." Are there not many other combinations in the vegetable organism, that the same powerful means cannot produce, but that the chemical means of nature can and does continually?

Diseased Potatoes.—We learn from several farmers, that their potatoes are dying, and that their crop will be almost an entire failure. We have seen several fields, mostly of the pink eye variety, where the tops were dead. The potatoes probably not more than half grown. What is the cause of this, we do not know. The season here has been favorable for the crop. We have noticed among some early potatoes we have raised, that a considerable portion are affected with the disease, which proved so disastrous to the potatoe crop in this country, and in England last year. We invite the attention of correspondents to this subject, and hope to hear from them in our next number.—*Central N. Y. Far.*

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

Edited by Joseph Breck.

Boston, Wednesday, Sept. 25, 1844.

SELECTING SEED POTATOES.

We think we are justified in saying that there are few matters pertaining to rural economy, in regard to which farmers are so indifferent or neglectful, as in the selection and preservation of seed potatoes. This is the impression which our observation has forced upon us. It were well worth the attention of farmers to consider whether a little more care in this matter would not considerably promote their interests. We have frequently heard the remark from citizens of Boston, that poor potatoes are always far more abundant in the markets here than those of good quality. Some of our farming friends, who reside in the city during the session of the Legislature, and who probably understand the secret of raising good potatoes at home, have complained bitterly of the quality of the "murphies" set before them at the tables of their boarding-houses here. Good potatoes rank high in the list of "creature comforts," and, like good butter, and superior articles generally, will always command a price proportionate to their excellence.

The character of the season, it is true, has an important influence upon the character of the potato crop,—but we think, as a general fact, much of the inferiority of potatoes common in our markets, is attributable to neglect in the selection and management of seed. It is more common than otherwise for potatoes to be stored promiscuously at harvest, and thus permitted to lie together till towards spring, when a sorting *of the best that remain*, is made for seed. The selection should be made previous to storing, and a separate place provided for those intended for seed—free from light, from heat, and from danger of freezing. It is contended by many skilful farmers in England, that the *latest formed* tubers are far the best for seed,—or indeed those which have not attained perfect maturity. The reason given for this superiority is, that those tubers which are latest formed will retain their reproductive properties more fully at the next season for planting. This theory seems plausible to us. We said *theory*:—we are reminded, however, that it is not *mere* theory, for we recollect reading not long since, several statements of practical farmers, in the London Agricultural Gazette, giving the results of a practical test of this theory in their own husbandry —and those results were strongly in its support.

In England, among the best farmers, it is a custom to store the seed potatoes by themselves in pits dug in the earth; and managed in this way, and being chosen from the last formed tubers, they retain their full vigor till planting time again returns; and even, if not perfectly ripe when pitted, they will become so in the pits.

It is confidently asserted by many observing agriculturists, that *weakness of the seed* is the chief cause of defects or failures in the potato crop, and that this weakness comes from over-ripeness. "I think, (says a writer in the Gardeners' Chronicle,) that the loss and disappointment from failure in the potato crop, may, in 99 cases out of every 100, be prevented by the exercise of a little care I knew a market gardener, famed for his potatoes, whose practice always was to dig up and put away sufficient for next year's seed, *before they had completed their growth*. They were thus full of sap, and kept so. I have myself had potatoes so waxy as to be unfit for the table, but from this very fact they made very good seed. A friend of mine called on me one day to look at his potato field, which had been well prepared and dressed with farm-yard manure. He observed that they come up very bad, and desired to know what was the matter. The fact was, the seed had been stored away with a large mass all winter, and deprived of sprouts two or three inches long, before planting. The vitality was quite exhausted before they were put into the ground: this was the secret of the failure. Soils, manures and seasons, no doubt, will affect a potato crop in various ways, but with a little care with the seed, any considerable failure may usually be prevented. Seed potatoes should not be of a mealy quality, nor should they be stored where they will heat, nor be kept out of the ground more than 24 hours after being cut for planting."

These hints are given in the hope to excite increased attention to this subject among our farmers, and to induce experiments in test of the above suggestions.—Considering the importance of the potato crop, and the value attached to good potatoes, as an article of human food, we think it highly deserving the farmer's attention to learn if by any means he can improve the character of the crop now obtained, particularly in respect to quality, —and if such improvement be effected, it will most surely amply repay for whatever of labor or care was expended in its accomplishment.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Annual Exhibition of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society took place on the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st of the present month, at their Hall, in Tremont Row. The official reports of the Society will be published in our next paper. The display of Apples and Pears was unprecedented for variety and beauty. The President of the Society exhibited 103 varieties of Pears, and the Hon. B. V. French 90 varieties of Apples. There were also large contributions of these fruits from many other gentlemen, and so great was the number of dishes of fine fruits, that not only were all the tables filled, but much was necessarily crowded under the tables, and some that was received after the regular hour was left unpacked in the boxes. The Grapes, as usual, from J. P. Cushing and other gentlemen, were very fine. The season was past for Plums and Peaches, yet there were some fine specimens of the later varieties exhibited. There were large contributions of extra fine vegetables from Capt. Lovett and other cultivators.

In consequence of the large amount of fruit, the space for flowers was somewhat contracted, and the Florists were limited to a small space for their display. Many new varieties of Dahlias made their appearance in the stands for the first time, and some of the variegated and tipped sorts, imported by Col. Wilder, the present season, were universally admired for their gay and brilliant appearance;—some of the most beautiful and rare in his and in the stands of other gentlemen, will be enumerated in the forthcoming report.

The ornamental designs from Messrs William and John Kenrick, attracted much notice. The festoons and wreathing, by Mr Haggerston, were executed in his usual good style.

The Grapes from Mr Cushing, arranged by Mr Haggerston, in the form of a Corinthian capitol, was probably the richest and most striking object in the room.

The Hall was well filled with visitors during the Exhibition, and among them many distinguished gentlemen from various parts of the country. Comparing this with the past Exhibitions of the Society, we can truly say that, in many respects, it was the best ever held, and a rapid progress in horticultural improvement was manifest to every close observer.

☞A lady correspondent of the Albany Cultivator, writes as follows. We think her queries entitled to the respectful consideration of those whom they concern. To us, the propriety of making the ladies—a disinterested committee of ladies—the judges of the fabrics from the needles of their sex, is obvious. In acting in such capacity, they would not be justly chargeable with departing from "woman's sphere," the legitimate limits of which, by the way, are now so much disputed, that he must be a bold man who dares to fix them:—

"*To the Committee for Awarding Premiums on In door Manufactures*:—Is it policy to award premiums for paintings, worsted needle-work, or work of any kind, that is *merely ornamental*? The object of giving premiums, (if I understand the matter,) for the best specimens of domestic manufactures, is to promote industry in the *useful* arts, and encourage those to work who would not without this inducement. There always was, and probably always will be, time enough expended in the manufacture of *useless* articles, without offering premiums for them. Few ladies are so indolent that they will not perform work of this kind, as the means of passing time, even though there may be, at the same time, a sad deficiency in the quantity of bedding, linen, &c., in their houses.

Furthermore, would it not be judicious (when awarding premiums for in-door articles) to consult the opinion of ladies who have been in the habit of manufacturing more or less of the same kind of goods? They certainly understand better than gentlemen can, the difficulty in performing different kinds of needle-work, and the time and expense required for the completion of the articles. For instance, the premium on table linen and sheeting, is small, compared with the premiums on flannel cloth, stockings, yarn, &c. No one can understand the difference in the labor required to make a yard of woollen or linen cloth, unless they have actually made both. I should be glad to see this branch of labor more encouraged: the foreign article is too expensive for common use, consequently very many farmers' families are almost entirely destitute of good substantial linen.

A Farmer's Wife."

The late Willis Gaylord.—Mr Colman, in a letter from London, to the Albany Cultivator, alluding to the late Mr Gaylord, says: "If the length of a life is to be measured by its usefulness, his certainly exceeded the common lot. His labors have been abundant and of eminent utility. He has contributed immensely in the country to the cultivation of a taste for rural pursuits and pleasures, and for the promotion of agricultural improvement. I wish very much that a selection could be made for publication from his writings, as it would form a book not only of delightful reading for the parlor, but of admirable utility for the public schools; and I should suppose the Commissioners for forming District and School Libraries, (for I believe a Board of that kind exists in the State of New York,) would encourage the publication."

What Next?—A correspondent of the London Agricultural Gazette recommends *frogs* for manure! He says—"They might be easily killed by sprinkling them with salt. We should thus, like the French, eat frogs though not exactly in the same form."

☞"The Plowboy," a sprightly little monthly, which hails from Cincinnati, and has the *curiousest* caput we ever *did* see, is well worthy the support of all the farmers of the Buckeye State. Its price is but 25 cents per annum!

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Flushing Horticultural Society, at Long Island, N. York, holds its First Annual Exhibition, on the 24th and 25th inst. and invite the attendance of the Members of the Massachusetts and other Horticultural Societies, and any contributions of Fruit and Flowers sent by Harnden's Express, so as to arrive in New York on the 23d and 24th inst. will be assigned a conspicuous position at the Exhibition.

By order of the Committee of Arrangements, &c.

Sept. 20, 1844.

MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

NOTICE.—The annual meeting of the Mass. Hort. Society will be held at their rooms, 23 Tremont Row, on *Saturday* the 5th of October next, at 11 o'clock A. M. for the choice of officers for the year ensuing, viz: a President, four Vice Presidents, a Treasurer, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, a Professor of Botany and Vegetable Physiology, a Professor of Entomology, a Professor of Horticultural Chemistry, an Executive Committee, and Standing Committee on Fruits, Flowers, Vegetables, the Library, the Synonyms of Fruits, and Finance.

EBENEZER WIGHT,
Sept. 11, 1844. *Rec. Sec'y.*

THERMOMETRICAL.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietors of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass. in a shaded Northerly exposure, to the week ending Sept. 22.

Sept. 1844.		7 A.M.	12, M.	5, P.M.	Wind.
Monday,	16	63	81	72	S. W.
Tuesday,	17	63	80	70	E.
Wednesday,	18	66	73	64	E.
Thursday,	19	67	83	74	S. E.
Friday,	20	74	85	77	N.
Saturday,	21	66	74	66	E
Sunday,	22	71	70	67	N. E.

BRIGHTON MARKET.—MONDAY, Sept. 23, 1844.

Reported for the N. E. Farmer.

At market 1025 Beef Cattle, 175 Stores, 3500 Sheep and 1200 Swine.

PRICES — *Beef Cattle.*—Sales were quicker and prices a trifle better. We quote a few extra, $4,75. First quality, $4,50 Second quality, $4,00 a 4,25. Third quality, $2,75 a 3,75.

Stores.—A few sales only noticed.

Sheep.—Lambs from $1,17 to 1 75. Old Sheep $1,75 to 2,25.

Swine.—Lots to peddle more than half barrows, 3 3-4 a 4. Old Hogs 3 1-2 a 4. At retail, from 4 to 5 1 2.

WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

Corrected with great care, weekly.

SEEDS. Herds Grass, $1 62 a 1 87 per bushel. Red Top 55 to 60 cents. Clover—Northern, 9 to 11c.—Southern, 7 a 9 c. Flax Seed. $1 50 per bushel. Lucerne, 33 c. per lb. Canary Seed, $2 25 a 2 37 per bushel.

GRAIN. There have been no arrivals of consequence for a long time, and good mealing Corn is much wanted.

Corn—Northern, new, bushel (none) 00—Southern, round yellow, (none) 00 a 00—Southern flat yellow, 00 a 54—do. do. white 00 a 00—do New Orleans, 00 a 00—Barley 00 a 00 —Rye, Northern, 68 a 70—do. Southern, 00 a 65 — Oats, Southern, 00 a 00—Northern do. 00 to 00—Beans, per bushel 1 00 a 1 62.—Shorts, per double bush. 00 a 00—Bran, 00 a 00.

FLOUR. In consequence of the excessive drought that prevails in almost every section of the country, and has prevented the usual supplies coming forward, together with the recent speculative operations in New York, the market, for the last two or three days, experienced an increased demand for the article, and an improvement in prices.

Baltimore, Howard Street, 4 mos. cr. $4 37 a 4 50—do. wharf, $0 00 a 0 00—do. free of garlic, $0 00 a 0 00—Philadelphia do. 4 mos. $0 00 a 0 00 —Fredericksburg, low P'd 4 mos. $0 00 a 4 12—Alexandria, wharf mountain, 4 00 a 4 12 —Georgetown, $0 00 a 4 50—Richmond Canal, $0 00 a 0 00 —do. City, $0 00 a 0 00—Petersburgh, South side $0 00 a 0 00 —do. Country $0 00 a 0 00—Genesee, common, cash, $4 56 a 4 62½— do fancy brands $4 69 a 4 87 —Ohio, via Canal, $0 00 a 0 00—do do New Orleans, cash $0 00 a 0 00. Rye, $3 18 a 3 25—Indian Meal in bbls. $2 50 a 2 56.

PROVISIONS. There has been a steady demand for Beef and Pork for vessels' stores and Eastern markets, at the quoted rates.

Beef—Mess 4 1 10 new bbl. $6 50 a 7 00—Navy—$6 00 a 6 50.—No. 1, $5 50 a 6 00—do Prime $3 75 a 4 00—Pork—Extra clear 4 mo bbl. $00 00 a 00 00—do Clear $11 00 a 11 50 do. Mess, $9 25 a 9 75—do Prime $7 50 a 7 75—do Mess from other States,— a — —do Prime do do $0 00 a 0 00 do. Cargo do. 0 00 a 0 00 —Clear do do $00 00 a 00 00— Butter, shipping, 00 a 00—do store, uninspected, 10 a 12—do dairy, 17 cts. a 20—Lard, No. 1, Boston ins. 00 a 0 —do South and Western, 5¾ a 6¼— Hams, Boston, 7 a 00 — Southern and Western, 5 a 6—Cheese, Ship'g and 4 meal, 3 a 4½ —do new milk, 4½ a 5½

WOOL. Duty. The value whereof at the place of exportation shall not exceed 7 cts. per pound, 5 per cent ad val. All whereof the value exceeds 7 cts. per pound, 40 per ct. ad. val. and 3 cts per pound.

There has been but little done by private sale in this article, since our last review.

Prime or Saxony Fleeces, washed, lb. 50 a 55 c.—American full blood do 43 a 47—Do 3-4 do 40 a 42—Do. 1-2 do 37 a 40 -1-4 and common do 32 a 35 — Smyrna Sheep, washed, 20 a 25—Do. unwashed, 10 a 17 — Bengasi do 6 a 13—Saxony, clean, 00—Buenos Ayres unpicked, 7 a 10— do. do. picked, 10 a 15—Superfine Northern pulled lamb 42 a 45—No. 1 do. do. do. 37 a 40—No. 2 do do do 25 a 33— No. 3 do do do 18 a 20.

HOPS. Duty 20 per cent.

But few of the new crop have been received during the past week, and yet there has been very little demand for early picked Hops.

1st sort Mass 1843, lb. 0 a 10 ; 2d do 6 a 7.

HAY, 12 to 15 per ton—Eastern Screwed $8 00 to 10 00.

EGGS. 12.

AFRICAN GUANO.

The cargo of the brig Samos, just arrived direct from Africa. This Guano has been analyzed by J. E. Teschemacher, Esq., and pronounced by him as fully equal to the best cargoes received in the London or Liverpool markets. Purchasers can depend on this as being the *genuine* article. For sale, in quantities to suit, by

CHARLES HOFFMAN, Salem.
VERNON BROWN, 5 Merchants' Exchange.
J. BRECK & CO. 51 & 52 N. Market St., up stairs.

Sept. 17. 3m.*

BARN DOOR ROLLERS AND IRON RODS

For sliding Doors, Axletrees, Steel Springs, and Tire Iron for sale by H RICHARDS,
Sept. 18. No. 109, State Street.

STRAWBERRIES!

The subscriber can supply all the most esteemed varieties of Strawberries now in cultivation. The present is considered a good time for the formation of new beds. The following are the prices per hundred plants ;—

Hovey's Seedling—a very superior variety, of large sized fine flavor, abundant bearer, and very hardy, $2,00
Keene's Seedling—Large fruit, very high flavor and high perfume, $2,00
Bishop's Orange—Fine size, abundant bearer and superior flavor. $2,00
Elton Seedling—Very large fruit of a superior flavor, considered one of the best in England, $2,00
Myatt's Pine—A delicious fruit, $3,00
Early Virginia, $1,00
English Wood, $1,00

Orders sent by mail enclosing the money will be punctually attended to, and the plants well packed for transportation. JOSEPH BRECK.

Boston, Aug. 6, 1844.

SILK COCOONS WANTED.

The subscriber will *pay cash* for good Cocoons, assorted, and well flossed. They are worth, according to kind and quality, from $2 to $4 per bushel, measure rounded.

J. R. BARBOUR.

Oxford, July 10.

CHEESE PRESSES.

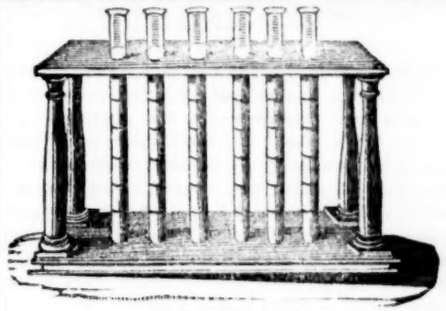
Self acting and other Cheese Presses, of the most approved kinds, for sale at the Agricultural Warehouse, 52 North Market street, by J. BRECK & Co.

CIDER MILL FOR SALE.

A first rate Cider Mill, with good Screws, in complete order, will be sold cheap, by JOSEPH BRECK & CO.
July 23.

GARDENER'S KNIVES,

And other implements for garden purposes, in great variety and of superior quality. For sale at the N. E. Agricultural Warehouse, No. 51 and 52, N. Market Street, by JOSEPH BRECK & CO.



LACTOMETERS

A simple instrument for testing the quality of milk. For sale at the N. E. Farmer Office. JOS. BRECK & CO.

BEMENT'S AMERICAN HOTEL,

NO. 100 STATE-STREET, ALBANY,

Is now open for the reception of company, having undergone a thorough repair and complete renovation from the cellar to the attic. It has been newly furnished throughout, and in quality of beds, cleanliness, and airy rooms, will now compare with any other establishmept in the city.

In location, this House has many advantages, being situated in the centre, and on one of the most beautiful streets in the city ; within a few moments' walk of the Eastern and Western Railroad Depots and the landing of the Steamboats ; about midway between the Capitol, Public Offices, and the Banks, Post-Office, and the business parts of the city, renders it very convenient for the man of business, as well as gentlemen of leisure

The subscriber places much reliance on the countenance and support of the AGRICULTURISTS throughout the Union, who may visit the city, and pledges himself to spare no exertions to render their stay agreeable, should they favor him with their company.

Three Hills Farm will be carried on as usual, under my own superintendence, by a careful manager, and the breeding and rearing improved stock will be continued as heretofore. C. N. BEMENT.

Albany, June, 1844.

GLASS SUPERCEDED FOR HORTICULTURAL PURPOSES.

Chemical Transparent water proof composition, for rendering Muslin, Cotton, or Linen, for the frames of Greenhouses, pine, melon or cucumber Stoves, &c., impervious to rain, or moisture, and admitting light equal to glass, the burning rays of the sun alone being obstructed. Houses, pits or frames covered with cloth prepared with this composition, embrace important advantages over glass. The light being equally diffused in every part of the house; plants placed on the floor have as much light as those close to the covering, consequently they are not drawn up as under glass, while they continue much longer in bloom, and preserve their delicate tints unfaded until the blossom falls. These facts are gathered from undoubted English authority, and so far as this prepared cloth has been tried in this country has given entire satisfaction, and no doubt will be instrumental of a very great improvement in the Horticulture of this country.

For framing of all sorts, as well as green houses, it will answer an excellent purpose, as it prevents the radiation of heat, and obstructs the burning rays of the sun ; it will give a congenial, moist atmosphere for plants in general. The cost is so trifling that it may be brought into general use for the growing of sallads, radishes, &c., and in a particular manner for Strawberries, Gooseberries and other small fruit which in our climate would be much improved by screaning from the burning sun.

This composition is prepared for the subscribers, by a person competent, and will be warranted equal to Whitney's imported from England.

For sale at No. 52, North Market street, at the Agricultural Warehouse, up stairs.

July 30. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

GRINDSTONES ON FRICTION ROLLERS.

Grindstones of different sizes, hung on friction rollers and moved with a foot treader, are found to be a great improvement on the old mode of hanging grindstones. Stones hung in this manner are becoming daily more in use, and wherever used, give universal satisfaction. The rollers can be attached to stones hung in the common way. For sale by J. BRECK & Co., No. 51 North Market street.

HORTICULTURAL TOOLS.

A few cases of superior Horticultural Tools, for gentlemen or ladies' use. For sale by JOS. BRECK & CO.
51 and 52 North Market Street.

HOES.

The best kind in the Market. For sale by
JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Yankee Wager.—The cool and collected manner in which a Yankee will come the "cute" over his more obtuse neighbor of a few degrees southward of "down east," was exemplified in an incident which came under our observation a day or two since. A jovial, good-natured, and tall harum-scarum dealer in wooden bowls, who has been peregrinating our neighborhood with a wagon load of the article, and by his off-hand and dexterous management, has supplied almost every other house with his ware, stopped at the Flushing Hotel, and was accosting its guests to purchase, and expressing himself willing to effect a bargain on almost any terms, by regular sale, barter, or by wagering on politics, or any thing else; hurrahing for Henry Clay, and finally offering to bet that the Kentuckian would obtain the electoral vote of his own state—Maine.

Mine host of the hotel, who has implicit faith in Polk and Dallas, to stop the mouth of the bowl-vender, offered to bet six of the best wooden bowls, at fifty cents each, that Clay would not get the vote of Maine; which was immediately accepted by the shrewd Yankee, who insisted that the contract should be reduced to writing; which, on being done, it was agreed that the bowls should be deposited in the hand of some third person until the election contest was decided. But when our Yankee asked our friend of the hotel where were *his* six bowls to put along with them, it appeared as if the ribs of the spectators would have split asunder by their uproarious laughter. Our friend of the hotel offered to purchase them at the stores; but when we came away, the Yankee was driving a bargain with mine host to supply him on much cheaper terms than they could be procured of the store-keepers. It can be easily imagined how the affair ended, viz: that the Yankee sold his opponent six bowls, leaving other particulars out of the question.—*Flushing Jour.*

Singular Cure.—A correspondent of the Boston Mercantile Journal thus notices a remarkable cure of paralysis of the arm:

"A few weeks since, a gentleman in Salem was seized with paralysis of the left arm, and to use his own words, "it seemed as if a sword had been thrust through his arm from the shoulders to the fingers, and it instantly fell powerless at his side." He hastened to his physician, and he pronounced it a plainly marked case of palsy. He in some degree recovered the use of the same, but it still remaining in a bad state, in company with a friend he went to Ipswich for recreation and exercise, hoping to receive benefit from the same, after strolling about upon the sea-shore, and becoming much fatigued, he found a resting place upon the sandy beach. During his siesta, his hand became imbedded in the sand; very shortly a violent prickling and twitching sensation commenced. Receiving encouragement from this unexpected return of action in the part, he excavated a place in which he placed his arm, and covering it up, soon fell into a quiet sleep, and so he remained about an hour. On arising, he found to his surprise and delight, that he had entirely recovered the use of his arm, and he still has perfect use of the same."

A little girl, hearing her mother say she was going into *half mourning*, asked if any of her relations were *half dead!*

A Culinary Desideratum.—The application of chemistry to cookery in France, has produced a curious result, and one likely to be as useful as curious. M. Milot, of the Academy of Sciences, has succeeded in obtaining by distillation, in a pure, colorless, and liquid form, all the properties of the various culinary vegetables. Thus he can put you up a bottle of carrots, parsnips, turnips, or onions, and you may carry it all over the world, certain of having with you the true flavor of the vegetable. A table-spoonful is enough for one pound of meat. The secret lies in the mode of distillation, by which the offensive parts of the vegetable are left. It is already an object with commercial men to export these essences, which are termed aromatique, to the French colonies, and then with the government there is an intention of using them extensively in the Navy.—*Selected.*

Right Smart Girl.—It is printed that there is a girl down east who cuts two cords of wood a day, attends to all the household affairs, drives home the cows, can lift a barrel of cider, and occasionally whips the schoolmaster, when none of the boys are able to do it.—*Times.*

Partnership.—"I say, stranger, you're drunk."

"Drunk enough, and have been so these two years. My brother and I are engaged in the temperance cause—he goes about delivering lectures, and I give samples of intemperance."

Silly.—Some persons toil all their lives, and refuse the enjoyments which can only be relished when life is in its prime, that they may be rich when the power of enjoyment is over.

"Do you understand me now?" thundered out a hasty pedagogue to an urchin at whose head he threw an inkstand. "I have got an *ink*-ling of what you mean," replied the boy.

"I shall retire in *dis gust*," as the nigger said to the hurricane.

True.—It is only when the rich are sick, that they fully feel the impotence of wealth.—*Colton.*

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.,

NEW ENGLAND

Agricultural Warehouse

AND

SEED STORE.

51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston.

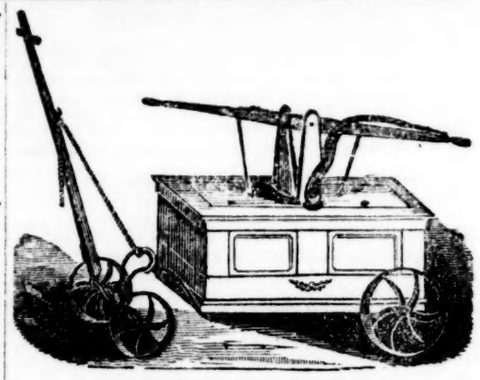
JOSEPH BRECK & CO. having received a full and general assortment of FIELD, GRASS, GARDEN and FLOWER SEEDS, worthy of cultivation, confidently recommend them as being pure and of the first qualities, unmixed with other varieties; they have no hesitation in saying that their collection of Seeds is the best, and of the greatest variety ever offered for sale at any establishment in the U. States.

AGRICULTURAL BOOKS of all kinds, constantly on hand.

AGRICULTURAL AND GARDEN IMPLEMENTS of all kinds, among which are the following, viz:—1000 Howard's Patent Cast Iron Ploughs, 200 Common do. do, 200 Cultivators, 100 Greene's Straw Cutters, 50 Willis' do. do, 100 Common do. do, 100 Willis' Patent Corn Shellers, 50 Common do. do, 200 Willis' Seed Sowers, 50 do. Vegetable Cutters, 50 Common do. do, 200 Hand Corn Mills, 200 Grain Cradles, 100 Ox Yokes, 1500 Doz. Scythe Stones, 3000 do Austin's Rifles, 100 doz. Cast Steel Shovels, 150 do. Common do. 100 do. Spades, 500 do. Grass Scythes, 300 do. Patent Snaiths, 200 do Common do., 500 do. Hay Rakes, 200 do. Garden do., 200 do. Manure Forks, 300 do. Hay do. 500 Pair Trace Chains, 100 do, Truck do. 100 do Draft do, 500 do. Tie up do, 50 doz Halter do, 1000 yards Fence do, 25 Grind Stones on Rollers

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.,

N. E. Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, 51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston.



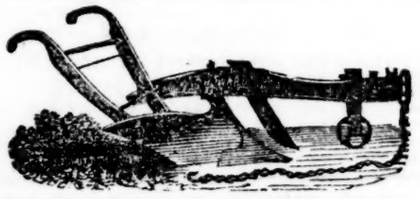
SAYLE'S GARDEN ENGINES.

A splendid article, will throw a constant stream of water to the distance of 50 to 60 feet, with great force, and in case of fire would be a substitute for a fire engine. The most perfect article for the purpose ever introduced.

For sale at the Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52, North Market Street.

JOS. BRECK & CO.

Boston, June 4.



HOWARD'S IMPROVED EASY DRAUGHT PLOUGH.

Great improvements have been made the past year in the form and workmanship of these Ploughs; the mould board has been so formed as to *lay the furrow completely over, turning in every particle of grass or stubble, and leaving the ground in the best possible manner.* The length of the mould board has been very much increased, so that the Plough works with the greatest ease, both with respect to the holding and the team. The Committee at the late trial of Ploughs at Worcester, say,

"Should our opinion be asked as to which of the Ploughs we should prefer for use on a farm, we might perhaps say to the inquirer, if your land is mostly light and easy to work, try Prouty & Mears, but if your *land is heavy, hard orrocky,* BEGIN WITH MR. HOWARD'S."

At the above mentioned trial the Howard Plough *did more work, with the same power of team, than any other plough exhibited.* No other turned more than twenty-seven and one half inches, to the 112 lbs. draught, while the *Howard Plough turned twenty-nine and one half inches, to the same power of team!* All acknowledge that Howard's Ploughs are much the strongest and most substantially made.

There has been quite an improvement made on the shoe, or land side of this Plough, which can be renewed without having to furnish a new landside this shoe likewise secures the mould board and landside together, and strengthens the Plough very much.

The price of the Ploughs is from $6 to $15. A Plough sufficient for breaking up with four cattle, will cost about $10 50, and with cutter $1, with wheel and cutter, $2 50 extra.

The above Ploughs are for sale, wholesale and retail, at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 & 52 North Market Street, by

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER

A WEEKLY PAPER.

Terms, $2 per year *in advance*, or $2 50 if not paid within sixty days.

N. B.—Postmasters are permitted by law to frank all subscriptions and remittances for newspapers, without expense to subscribers.

TUTTLE AND DENNETT, PRINTERS,

21 SCHOOL STREET.